SGP, US-J 11/1/88 A

YORK MSA
WILLIAMSPORT MSA
STATE COLLEGE MSA
SHARON MSA
SCRANTON - WILKES-BARRE MSA
READING MSA
PITTSBURGH PMSA
PHILADELPHIA PMSA
LANCASTER MSA
JOHNSTOWN MSA
HARRISBURG-LEBANON-CARLISLE MSA
ERIE MSA
BEAVER COUNTY PMSA
ALTOONA MSA
ALLENTOWN BETHLEHEM MSA
BEDFORD LMA
BRADFORD LMA

PENNSYLVANIA'S LABOR FORCE

.... A Monthly Statistical Analysis

Highlights

- The recent powerful performance of Pennsylvania's labor force retreated in September from the record employment and 14-year low unemployment levels set in August.
- Unemployment, seasonally adjusted, increased by 55,000 over the month, to a rate of 5.4 percent from 4.5 percent in August.
- At 5,081,700, Pennsylvania's total nonagricultural employment set another record in September. An over-the-month gain of 24,100 jobs exceeded seasonal expectations.
- Year-to-date totals for claims are down substantially over last year: initial claims dropped 11 percent and weeks claimed fell by 12 percent.
- August marks the first month in the 1980s in which every county in Pennsylvania had an unemployment rate (unadjusted) below ten percent.

INSIDE

Current Labor Force Situation.....1
Nonagricultural Jobs.....2-3
Hours and Earnings.....4
Unemployment Compensation.....5
County Data.....6
Pennsylvania's Labor Markets.....7
Pennsylvania's Service Delivery Areas.....8

September 1988 DATA ISSUED: October 1988

LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Robert P. Casey, Governor

Department of Labor and Industry Bureau of Research and Statistics

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

BUREAU OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

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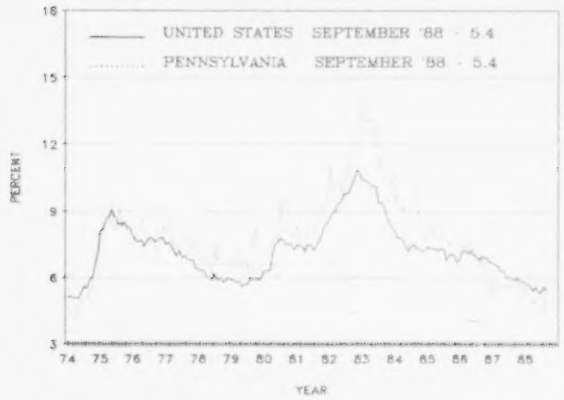
CURRENT LABOR FORCE SITUATION

LABOR FORCE STATISTICS RETREAT TOWARD JULY LEVELS

The recent powerful performance of Pennsylvania's labor force slowed in September. After setting a new all-time high for employment and a 14-year low for unemployment in August, labor force statistics retreated toward levels reported for July.

Labor force data made available through the Current Population Survey (CPS) of households and released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the U.S. Department of Labor show September seasonally adjusted unemployment in Pennsylvania at 315,000, up 55,000 from August. The sharp increase pushed the seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment up to 5.4 percent from 4.5 percent in August. At 5.4 percent, the rate returned to the narrow band just above 5.0 percent where it has been for most of 1988. The September rate held below the year earlier rate of 5.6 percent.

UNITED STATES & PENNSYLVANIA
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)



Seasonally adjusted employment slipped 26,000 from the August all-time high of 5,526,000. At 5,500,000, September's level represents the second highest seasonally adjusted employment count ever. The minimal September employment loss failed to reflect the sizeable unemployment increase. This translates to a higher labor force in September. At 5,815,000, the seasonally adjusted September labor force was the second highest ever, behind only January of this year. This is a tribute to the strength of Pennsylvania's economy which has drawn into the labor force, and provided jobs for many workers who would not normally participate during less active economic times.

TABLE 1
TOTAL CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT
IN PENNSYLVANIA
(All persons in thousands)

RESIDENT DATA	SEPT. 1988	AUG. 1988	SEPT. 1987	NET CHANGE FROM AUG. 1988	NET CHANGE FROM SEPT. 1987
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA					
Civilian Labor Force	5,815	5,786	5,683	29	132
Employment	5,500	5,526	5,365	-26	135
Unemployment	315	260	318	55	-3
Rate of Unemployment (%)	5.4	4.5	5.6	0.9	-0.2
UNADJUSTED DATA					
Civilian Labor Force	5,845	5,928	5,715	-83	130
Employment	5,549	5,680	5,418	-131	131
Unemployment	296	249	297	47	-1
Rate of Unemployment (%)	5.1	4.2	5.2	0.9	-0.1

Employment, not seasonally adjusted, was 5,549,000 in September, down 131,000 from August. Most of this decline represented youth vacating summer jobs upon their return to school.

Unemployment, not adjusted for seasonality, was 296,000 in September, up 47,000 since August. The sharp increase pushed the unadjusted rate of unemployment up to 5.1 percent from 4.2 percent one month earlier. Part of the 47,000 increase was due to women reentering the labor force to find jobs following the return of children to school. However, much of the 47,000 upturn cannot be accounted for, but represent a rebound from the exaggerated drop in August unemployment. A cautionary note was released last month with the August data to avoid assigning too much importance to the low August unemployment.

TABLE 2
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(Not seasonally adjusted, number in thousands)

ESTABLISHMENT DATA	SEPT. 1988 AP/	AUG. 1988 P/	JULY 1988	AUG.. 1987	NET CHANGE TO AUG. 1988 FROM: JULY 1988	AUG. 1987
NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY	5081.7	5057.6	5056.5	4938.5	1.1	119.1
---MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	1059.0	1055.6	1051.1	1046.7	4.5	8.9
DURABLE GOODS INDUSTRIES	606.4	603.3	604.8	592.5	-1.5	10.8
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS		31.8	31.5	30.7	0.3	1.1
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES		21.7	21.3	21.8	0.4	-0.1
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODUCTS		49.0	48.7	48.3	0.3	0.7
PRIMARY METAL INDUSTRIES		92.8	93.3	88.9	-0.5	3.9
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS		93.0	93.0	92.7	0.0	0.3
MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL		108.8	108.6	104.3	0.2	4.5
ELECTRIC & ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT		92.1	92.6	92.3	-0.5	-0.2
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT		59.0	60.7	58.9	-1.7	0.1
INSTRUMENTS AND RELATED PRODUCTS		34.5	34.3	34.2	0.2	0.3
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES		20.6	20.8	20.4	-0.2	0.2
NONDURABLE GOODS INDUSTRIES	452.6	452.3	446.3	454.2	6.0	-1.9
FOOD AND KINDRED PRODUCTS		92.5	91.1	91.6	1.4	0.9
TOBACCO MANUFACTURES		1.2	1.1	1.2	0.1	0.0
TEXTILE MILL PRODUCTS		30.6	29.9	31.6	0.7	-1.0
APPAREL AND OTHER TEXTILE PRODS.		81.1	77.7	85.5	3.4	-4.4
PAPER AND ALLIED PRODUCTS		41.5	41.2	41.7	0.3	-0.2
PRINTING AND PUBLISHING		81.6	81.4	81.4	0.2	0.2
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS		61.0	61.3	59.6	-0.3	1.4
PETROLEUM AND COAL PRODUCTS		10.6	10.7	10.9	-0.1	-0.3
RUBBER AND PLASTICS PRODUCTS		42.2	41.9	40.3	0.3	1.9
LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS		10.0	10.0	10.4	0.0	-0.4
---NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	4019.2	4000.8	4000.1	3890.1	0.7	110.7
MINING	29.8	29.7	29.9	31.1	-0.2	-1.4
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	258.1	259.2	256.9	245.6	2.3	13.6
TRANSPORTATION	142.0	136.1	135.9	135.4	0.2	0.7
PUBLIC UTILITIES	105.3	106.1	106.1	105.5	0.0	0.6
COMMUNICATIONS		49.8	49.8	49.9	0.0	-0.1
ELECTRIC, GAS AND SANITARY		56.3	56.3	55.6	0.0	0.7
WHOLESALE TRADE	268.1	270.0	270.4	266.9	-0.4	3.1
RETAIL TRADE	882.0	874.5	876.9	865.3	-2.4	9.2
GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORES		121.5	122.3	122.9	-0.8	-1.4
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	299.4	301.8	301.4	296.6	0.4	5.2
BANKING		88.9	88.7	89.8	0.2	-0.9
INSURANCE CARRIERS		89.7	89.4	85.5	0.3	4.2
SERVICES	1366.0	1353.4	1353.4	1284.1	0.0	69.3
BUSINESS SERVICES		241.3	238.8	223.5	2.5	17.8
HEALTH SERVICES		437.2	436.2	421.0	1.0	16.2
--HOSPITALS		238.9	238.7	231.5	0.2	7.4
LEGAL SERVICES		38.2	39.0	36.7	-0.8	1.5
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES		128.4	131.8	121.6	-3.4	6.8
SOCIAL SERVICES		87.8	87.5	82.5	0.3	5.3
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES		66.4	65.7	61.0	0.7	5.4
OTHER SERVICES		354.1	354.4	337.8	-0.3	16.3
GOVERNMENT	668.5	670.0	669.2	659.6	0.8	10.4
FEDERAL		143.0	144.1	144.3	-1.1	-1.3
STATE		141.5	135.8	138.6	5.7	2.9
LOCAL		385.5	389.3	376.7	-3.8	8.8
---PERSONS IN LABOR-MGMT. DISPUTES	3.5	1.2	5.3	1.7	-4.0	-0.4

AP/ = Advanced preliminary, based on early survey returns.
P/ = Preliminary data.

ANOTHER EMPLOYMENT RECORD SET IN SEPTEMBER

Pennsylvania's total nonagricultural establishment employment set another record in September. At 5,081,700, employment was up 116,300 over a year ago. The previous record of 5,075,400 was set in June of this year. An over-the-month gain of 24,100 jobs was posted, far exceeding seasonal expectations.

Jobs within manufacturing increased again in September. A higher than seasonally expected rise of 3,400 brought employment to 1,059,000, primarily due to an upturn in the durable goods industries.

Nonmanufacturing employment also advanced in September. With an addition of 18,400 jobs over the month employment reached 4,019,200, which surpassed the previous record set in June.

Leading the expansion in nonmanufacturing industries were services and retail trade. With the addition of 12,600 jobs, employment in services reached 1,366,000, the highest ever in this industry sector. The over-the-month gain of 7,500 positions in retail trade brought employment to 882,000, the third highest level on record.

Most of the losses experienced in contract construction; wholesale trade; and finance, insurance and real estate are typical for September. Much of the employment loss in government was due to labor disputes in the public schools.

JOB LEVELS INCREASE SLIGHTLY IN AUGUST

Nonagricultural establishment jobs increased by 1,100 during August to a volume of 5,057,600, the highest August level on record.

Manufacturing employment rose by 4,500 since July to a total of 1,055,600, the result of a 6,000 job gain in the nondurable goods sector.

Most job gains in this sector came in the apparel, food and textile industries, while transportation equipment posted the largest loss.

Nonmanufacturing employment totaled 4,000,800 in August, reflecting a gain of 700 jobs since July. Contract construction at 259,200 and finance, insurance and real estate at 301,800 reached all-time highs again in August. Services, which normally recedes in August, tied the record of 1,353,400 set in July. Gains in business services and other sectors within services were offset by a drop of 3,400 in educational services.

Government, which is also expected to slump in August, showed a slight upturn. This was due to an increase in the state government sector as the result of the settlement of the state employes strike.

Compared to one year ago, total employment advanced by 119,100 and was broad-based with gains in all major industries except nondurable goods and mining. Manufacturing gained 8,900 jobs while nonmanufacturing expanded by 110,700, with the majority of the rise in nonmanufacturing the result of a 69,300 employment increase in services.

TABLE 3
PENNSYLVANIA HOURS AND EARNINGS
OF MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING PRODUCTION WORKERS
(Not seasonally adjusted, number in thousands)

INDUSTRY TITLE	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	AUGUST 1988 P/	JULY 1988	AUGUST 1987	AUGUST 1988 P/	JULY 1988	AUGUST 1987	AUGUST 1988 P/	JULY 1988	AUGUST 1987
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	418.20	419.42	409.36	40.8	40.8	41.1	10.25	10.28	9.96
DURABLE GOODS	453.74	455.52	447.49	41.4	41.6	41.9	10.96	10.95	10.68
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS	351.41	351.65	361.88	41.1	40.7	42.8	8.55	8.64	8.45
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES	368.96	375.16	380.59	40.5	42.2	41.4	9.11	8.89	8.71
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODS.	455.18	457.96	442.19	42.7	42.8	42.8	10.66	10.70	10.38
PRIMARY METALS	531.65	541.43	533.35	41.8	42.2	42.8	12.78	12.83	12.52
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	445.20	445.82	438.27	42.0	42.0	41.9	10.60	10.61	10.46
NONELECTRICAL MACHINERY	474.14	472.07	463.05	42.6	42.3	42.6	11.13	11.16	10.87
ELECTRIC AND ELECTRONIC MACH.	406.60	402.78	410.23	40.0	39.8	40.9	10.17	10.12	10.03
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	529.57	522.90	480.00	41.8	42.0	40.1	12.73	12.45	11.97
INSTRUMENTS AND RELATED PROD.	410.17	430.56	418.55	39.9	41.6	41.4	10.28	10.35	10.11
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES	388.22	373.92	411.73	38.9	38.0	41.8	9.98	9.84	9.85
NONDURABLE GOODS	372.00	370.80	361.30	40.0	39.7	40.1	9.30	9.34	9.01
FOOD AND KINDRED PRODUCTS	420.58	412.08	404.48	41.6	40.8	41.4	10.11	10.10	9.77
TOBACCO PRODUCTS	251.12	247.26	275.90	40.7	39.0	44.5	6.17	6.34	6.20
TEXTILE PRODUCTS	283.75	270.27	273.92	39.3	37.8	39.3	7.22	7.15	6.97
APPAREL AND RELATED PRODUCTS	222.84	221.24	212.99	36.0	35.8	36.1	6.19	6.18	5.90
PAPER PRODUCTS	469.99	486.50	470.55	43.0	44.6	44.1	10.93	10.91	10.67
PRINTING AND PUBLISHING	443.09	426.08	435.37	40.8	39.6	40.2	10.86	10.81	10.83
CHEMICAL AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	516.53	522.28	492.74	42.2	42.6	41.9	12.24	12.26	11.76
PETROLEUM AND COAL PRODUCTS	569.92	567.03	559.09	41.8	42.6	42.1	13.70	13.78	13.28
RUBBER AND PLASTICS PRODUCTS	372.45	379.04	379.80	41.2	41.2	42.2	9.04	9.20	9.00
LEATHER PRODUCTS	231.10	219.98	229.12	36.8	36.3	38.9	6.28	6.06	5.89
NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES									
ANTHRACITE COAL MINING	448.43	444.17	424.13	37.4	36.2	36.5	11.99	12.27	11.62
BIT. COAL & LIGNITE MINING	661.70	636.73	641.44	42.2	41.4	42.2	15.68	15.38	15.20
COMMUNICATIONS	567.88	541.31	539.08	41.3	40.7	40.2	13.75	13.30	13.41
ELECTRIC, GAS, & SANITARY	652.21	644.36	638.15	42.8	42.9	42.8	15.31	15.02	14.98
GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORES	181.04	181.38	186.66	28.6	28.7	30.5	6.33	6.32	6.12

P/ Preliminary data.

HOURLY EARNINGS AND WEEKLY PAYCHECKS DOWN SLIGHTLY

Hourly earnings of manufacturing production workers in Pennsylvania declined by three cents since July to an August rate of $10.25. This topped the year-ago wage by twenty-nine cents an hour. The hourly rate in durable goods was up one cent since July while nondurable goods wage were down four cents an hour.

The average manufacturing work week, 40.8 hours, remained steady over the month. A 0.2 hour decrease in durable goods was offset by a 0.3 hour rise in the average weekly hours of nondurable goods workers.

The slight loss in hourly earnings coupled with no change in the work week resulted in an over-the-month drop of $1.22 in the weekly earnings of manufacturing workers, to a weekly paycheck of $418.20. This was $8.84 more than in August of 1987.

Average weekly earnings were up substantially over the month in four of the five nonmanufacturing sectors listed. The exception was general merchandise stores, which was down slightly due to a 0.1 hour decline in the work week. All sectors but anthracite mining paid their workers a high hourly wage in August. Workers in anthracite mining were earning 28 cents an hour less than they were earning in July.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

TABLE 4
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION REGULAR PROGRAM
(Not seasonally adjusted)

	AUGUST 1988	JULY 1988	AUGUST 1987	NET CHANGE FROM JULY 88	NET CHANGE FROM AUG. 87
CLAIMS ACTIVITY					
Initial Claims	64,065	82,617	63,113	-18,552	952
Weeks Claimed	495,702	448,849	475,191	46,853	20,511
---Average Weekly Volume	107,761	106,869	113,141	892	-5,380
Insured Unemployed Rate	2.3%	2.3%	2.5%	0.0	-0.2
PAYMENT ACTIVITY					
First Payments	26,808	32,192	24,700	-5,384	2,108
Final Payments	7,543	7,837	8,045	-294	-502
Weeks Paid	419,991	394,674	426,399	25,317	-6,408
Net Benefit Amount	$59,862,681	$57,547,049	$57,954,770	$2,315,632	$1,907,911
Avg. Check Amount	$142.53	$145.81	$135.92	-$3.28	$6.61

INITIAL CLAIMS TOTAL UNDERGOES SEASONAL DECLINE IN AUGUST

The initial claims total fell by 18,552 between July and August to a low for the year of 64,065. The July to August decline in initial claims coincides with normal seasonal patterns and the August 1988 figure is fewer than 1,000 claims higher than a year ago. The trend in weeks claimed generally lags that for initial claims. As a result, the weeks claimed total jumped from 448,849 in July to 495,702 in August, a 10 percent increase, which follows a similar increase in initial claims that occurred between June and July. Year-to-date totals for claims through August are down substantially in 1988 compared to a year ago. Initial claims have dropped by 11 percent and weeks claimed by 12 percent. In August, for the fourth successive month, the insured unemployment rate held steady at 2.3 percent.

Despite a $3.28 or two percent drop in the average check amount, the net benefit amount edged upward by $2.3 million in August from a month ago to $59.9 million. This upturn was generated by a 6 percent over-the-month increase in weeks paid. August posted the lowest average check amount for the year-to-date, $142.53, and if 1988 repeats the pattern of the prior four years, this figure will represent the low for the entire year. August was only the second month of 1988 for which the net benefit amount was higher than a year ago. The August increase over a year ago, however, was less than $2 million.

UNEMPLOYMENT ..... A GEOGRAPHIC VIEW

ALL COUNTIES ARE BELOW TEN PERCENT

August is the first month during the 1980s in which every county in Pennsylvania had an unadjusted monthly unemployment rate below ten percent. All counties had a drop in unemployment rates over-the-month, with the exception of Cambria County, which registered an increase of 0.1 percentage point. Over-the-month declines in unemployment rates ranged from 3.5 percentage points in Potter County to 0.1 percentage point in Pike County.

Lancaster, Lebanon and Montgomery Counties ranked first with unemployment rates of 2.7 percent. Greene County, which has ranked last in recent months, registered a decrease of 2.0 percentage points over the month to a rate of 9.5, the lowest unadjusted monthly rate for the county since November of 1981.

Twenty-nine counties had rates below, three counties had rates equaling, and thirty-five counties had rates higher than the state unadjusted unemployment rate of 4.2 percent.

AUGUST RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

2.6 to 3.5
3.6 to 4.5
4.6 to 5.5
5.6 to 10.5

TABLE 5
PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES RANKED BY RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT
(Not seasonally adjusted, preliminary)
AUGUST - 1988

COUNTY	RANK	RATE (%)	VOLUME
Lancaster	1	2.7	6000
Lebanon	1	2.7	1500
Montgomery	1	2.7	10900
Chester	4	2.8	5400
Sullivan	4	2.8	100
Bucks	6	2.9	5800
Delaware	7	3.0	9200
Adams	8	3.1	1200
Cumberland	8	3.1	3500
Fulton	8	3.1	200
Snyder	8	3.1	600
Berks	12	3.2	5800
Franklin	12	3.2	1800
Bradford	14	3.3	1000
Lehigh	14	3.3	5000
Montour	14	3.3	300
Monroe	17	3.5	1500
Pike	17	3.5	500
Union	17	3.5	600
Wayne	17	3.5	800
Dauphin	21	3.6	5000
Northampton	22	3.7	4300
Wayne	22	3.7	900
Lycoming	24	3.8	2400
York	24	3.8	6900
Columbia	26	3.9	1300
Tioga	26	3.9	800
Allegheny	28	4.0	25900
Centre	28	4.0	2500
Carbon	30	4.2	1000
Lackawanna	30	4.2	4700
Potter	30	4.2	300
Juniata	33	4.4	400
Perry	33	4.4	900
Wyoming	33	4.4	600
Butler	36	4.5	3200
Elk	37	4.7	800
Mercer	37	4.7	2500
Erie	39	4.8	6300
Somerset	40	4.9	1600
Cameron	41	5.0	100
Clinton	41	5.0	800
Lawrence	41	5.0	2300
McKean	41	5.0	1100
Philadelphia	45	5.1	38800
Blair	46	5.3	3300
Northumberland	46	5.3	2600
Susquehanna	46	5.3	1000
Mifflin	49	5.4	1200
Washington	49	5.4	5000
Crawford	51	5.5	2200
Schuylkill	51	5.5	4100
Venango	51	5.5	1500
Jefferson	54	5.6	1100
Huntingdon	55	5.7	1000
Luzerne	55	5.7	9400
Forest	57	5.8	100
Bedford	58	5.9	1400
Clarion	59	6.0	1000
Westmoreland	60	6.3	10900
Armstrong	61	6.5	1800
Beaver	62	7.3	4700
Cambria	63	7.4	4800
Fayette	64	7.9	4700
Clearfield	65	8.1	2600
Indiana	65	8.1	2600
Greene	67	9.5	1300

PENNSYLVANIA'S LABOR MARKET AREAS

TABLE 6
TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT VOLUME AND RATE
BY MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREA IN PENNSYLVANIA
(Seasonally adjusted, number in thousands)

AREA	AUGUST 1988 * UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBER	AUGUST 1988 * UNEMPLOYMENT RATE%	JULY 1988 UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBER	JULY 1988 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE%	AUGUST 1987 UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBER	AUGUST 1987 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE%
UNITED STATES	6851	5.6	6625	5.4	7256	6.0
PENNSYLVANIA	260	4.5	302	5.3	316	5.6
LABOR MARKET AREA						
ALLENTOWN-BETHLEHEM MSA	13.4	4.1	14.2	4.4	15.2	4.7
ALTOONA	3.8	6.3	4.4	7.3	4.3	7.2
BEAVER COUNTY PMSA	5.0	7.9	5.8	9.2	6.0	9.6
ERIE MSA	7.0	5.4	8.1	6.3	9.2	7.2
HARRISBURG-LEB-CARLISLE MSA	12.4	3.9	13.2	4.1	13.6	4.3
JOHNSTOWN MSA	7.1	7.5	7.1	7.6	7.8	8.3
LANCASTER MSA	7.0	3.2	8.1	3.7	8.3	3.9
PHILADELPHIA PMSA	91.1	3.7	98.1	4.0	103.9	4.3
PITTSBURGH PMSA	48.5	5.1	54.4	5.7	62.9	6.6
READING MSA	6.8	3.8	7.2	4.1	8.1	4.7
SCRANTON--WILKES-BARRE MSA	19.6	5.5	23.1	6.5	24.1	6.9
SHARON MSA	2.6	5.1	2.8	5.5	3.2	6.5
STATE COLLEGE MSA	2.9	4.7	3.7	6.0	3.3	5.4
WILLIAMSPORT MSA	3.1	5.0	3.2	5.2	3.3	5.6
YORK MSA	8.5	3.9	9.3	4.3	9.6	4.5

* Preliminary data

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES DECLINE IN ALL MSAs and SDAs

During August, the rate of unemployment (seasonally adjusted) receded in all of Pennsylvania's fifteen major Metropolitan Statistical Areas over the month and also from one year ago.

The greatest improvements from August 1987 occurred in Erie MSA (-1.8 percent), Beaver County PMSA (-1.7 percent), Pittsburgh PMSA (-1.5 percent), and Scranton/Wilkes-Barre and Sharon MSAs with a decline of 1.4 percent each. In the July 1988 ranking of 250 major labor market areas in the nation, Beaver County PMSA ranked sixteenth on the high end and Lancaster County MSA ranked 188th on the low end, with rankings reported highest to lowest.

SERVICE DELIVERY AREAS

The unemployment rates for the Service Delivery Areas (SDAs) ranged from 2.7 percent for SDA 19 (Montgomery County) and SDA 25 (Lancaster County) to 7.3 percent for SDA 5 (Beaver County. All Twenty-eight SDAs recorded drops in their unemployment rates (see Table 7).

TABLE 7
MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT SITUATION
AUGUST 1988 --- PRELIMINARY
(DATA NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED, VOLUME IN THOUSANDS)

SDA NO.	COUNTIES	LABOR FORCE	EMP.	UNEMP.	RATE (%
01	Erie	131.8	125.5	6.3	4.8
02	Clarion, Crawford, Forest, Venango, Warren	106.5	101.0	5.5	5.2
03	City of Pittsburgh	174.3	166.7	7.6	4.4
04	Allegheny County minus City of Pittsburgh	476.5	458.2	18.2	3.8
05	Beaver	64.4	59.7	4.7	7.3
06	Armstrong, Butler, Indiana	134.7	126.8	7.9	5.9
07	Fayette, Westmoreland	232.9	217.3	15.6	6.7
08	Greene, Washington	106.4	100.1	6.3	5.9
09	Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter	104.5	98.2	6.3	6.0
10	Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, Somerset	206.5	194.3	12.3	5.9
11	Centre, Clinton, Lycoming	162.0	155.2	6.8	4.2
12	Columbia, Juniata, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Union	133.8	128.1	5.7	4.2
13	Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wyoming	86.9	83.4	3.5	4.0
14	Lackawanna	111.5	106.8	4.7	4.2
15	Carbon, Monroe, Pike, Wayne	106.4	102.4	3.9	3.7
16	Luzerne, Schuylkill	238.6	225.1	13.5	5.7
17	Philadelphia	765.7	726.9	38.8	5.1
18	Bucks	300.5	291.7	8.8	2.9
19	Montgomery	398.6	387.7	10.9	2.7
20	Delaware	307.5	298.3	9.2	3.0
21	Chester	195.2	189.8	5.4	2.8
22	Lehigh, Northampton	266.8	257.5	9.2	3.5
23	Berks	181.2	175.4	5.8	3.2
24	Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon, Perry	332.0	320.9	11.1	3.3
25	Lancaster	226.4	220.3	6.0	2.7
26	York	183.7	176.8	6.9	3.8
27	Adams, Franklin	94.5	91.6	3.0	3.1
28	Lawrence, Mercer	98.6	93.8	4.8	4.8
	PENNSYLVANIA - TOTAL	5928.0	5680.0	249.0	4.2

A Service Delivery Area is a geographical planning region defined by the Jobs Training Partnership Act (JTPA)

TECHNICAL NOTES

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Civilian Labor Force - Estimated number of persons 16 years of age and over, employed or unemployed during week including 12th of month, distributed by place of residence.

Total Employed - Includes nonagricultural wage and salary workers, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agricultural workers, and persons involved in labor disputes. Employment distributed by place of residence.

Total Unemployed - Estimated number of persons, by place of residence, who did not work during reference week and were looking for work, whether or not eligible for unemployment compensation. Includes those who did not work and were waiting to be called back to an old job or to report to a new job.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

Collection - Nonagricultural wage and salary employment as well as hours and earnings estimates based on monthly reports from sample of employers. Under cooperative arrangement with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of Research & Statistics of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, mails, edits, and processes reports, which are subsequently incorporated in national data.

Industrial Classification - Employer establishments classified by industry on basis of their principal product or service. The Standard Industrial Classification Manual (U.S. Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C., 1972, amended 1977) used for classification.

Nonagricultural Employment - A count of jobs by place of work. Includes persons on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation. Excluded are persons laid off, on strike, or on unpaid vacation during entire reporting period. Proprietors, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, farm workers, and domestic workers also excluded. Government employment covers only civilian employes. Full-time teachers considered employed during the summer vacation period, whether or not paid in those months.

Benchmark Data - Employment estimates compared annually with complete count of employment, by industry. Where revisions necessary, monthly estimates adjusted to new benchmark. Following revisions to new benchmark, industry data projected forward to current month by use of sample trends. Basic source of benchmark information is tabulations of employment data, by industry and area, compiled from contribution reports of employers covered under Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Law.

Hours and Earnings

Method of Computing Averages - Average hours computed by dividing total production worker hours worked during one week (the seven-day period which includes 12th of month) by number of production workers for week. Average hourly earnings computed by dividing total production worker payroll for one week by total production worker hours for week. Average weekly earnings derived by multiplying average hourly earnings by average weekly hours.

Definitions - Definitions of production or similar workers, payroll, and hours - from which average hours and earnings data are derived - follow:

Production Workers - Includes working supervisors and all nonsupervisory workers (including group leaders and trainees) engaged in fabricating, processing, assembling, inspection, receiving, storage, handling, packing, warehousing, shipping, maintenance, repair, janitorial and guard services, product development, auxiliary production for plant's own use (such as power plant), and record keeping and other services closely associated with production operations.

Payroll - Represents payroll for full- and part-time production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers who received pay for any part of pay periods which include 12th of month. Payroll is reported before deductions for Social Security, group insurance, withholding tax, bonds, and union dues; also includes pay for overtime, holidays, vacations, and sick leave paid directly by the firm.

Hours - Represents hours worked or paid, during pay periods which include 12th of month, for production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers. Hours include time paid for holidays and vacations, and for sick leave when pay received directly from firm.

Unemployment Compensation

Initial Claims - Notices of unemployment filed to request a determination of entitlement to compensation in a new benefit year (period of eligibility) following a period of employment or to begin a second or subsequent period of eligibility within the benefit year following interim employment within the benefit year.

Weeks Claimed - Requests for benefits filed by claimants which certify to the fact the claimants experienced total, partial, or part-total unemployment for given weeks.

Average Weekly Claims - Total number of weeks claimed in a month divided by the number of weeks in the month.

Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) - Ratio of the average weekly number of persons claiming unemployment compensation benefits within the given month to average annual covered employment. Calculated by dividing the month's average weekly continued weeks claimed by the latest 12 month average covered employment for which data is available.

First Payment - First benefit check a claimant receives for a week of unemployment in a benefit year.

Weeks Paid - Weeks claimed which were paid to eligible claimants upon certification that unemployment compensation qualifying unemployment was experienced during given weeks.

Net Benefit Amount - Amount of regular unemployment compensation benefits paid to claimants, after adjusting for returned and redeposited benefit checks.